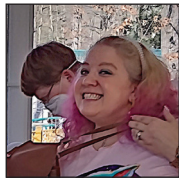


Music from
Zimbabwe, p.12



Donations to
GARF, p.13

City Council Considers Compost, Forest Preserve Board Reports

by Diane Oberg



PHOTO BY JAMARIE SPENCER

At the council meeting on Monday, March 13, Mayor Emmett Jordan presents a proclamation declaring March as National Women’s History Month to fellow councilmembers, city staff and city residents.

At its March 13 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council recognized six outstanding educators (see the March 23 issue), introduced the proposed award of a compost recycling contract for first reading and accepted three Forest Preserve Advisory Board reports covering Northway trailhead erosion. Two proposed funds and recommendations to use funds from the Ecology and Science funds to study the hy-

drolgy and geology of Canyon Creek in the Forest Preserve were also discussed.

Compost Contract

Councilmember Kristen Weaver introduced for first reading a resolution granting a sole-source contract to Compost Crew to prepare the composting site and collect food scraps for composting under the recently-received grant

See **COUNCIL**, page 10

County Executive Angela Alsobrooks Recognizes Williamson, News Review

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Thursday, March 30, the mood was celebratory and the room crowded for the 38th annual Prince George’s County Women’s History Month Luncheon, whose theme was Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories. After a hiatus during the pandemic, and a smaller version of the luncheon last year, this year saw a return to an enthusiastic full celebration, tickets for which sold out in two weeks.

County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, who was introduced as a working mother running the second largest county in Maryland, danced up on stage to a room full of applause. Her introductory remarks were only 15 minutes and to the surprise of editor Mary Lou Williamson, who was in the audience, the county executive spent the bulk of her time telling the story of the Greenbelt News Review.

Alsobrooks described the small paper, founded shortly after the town was chartered, that broadcast town notices and births, mourned residents through obituaries, featured occasional food recipes and printed local resident spotlights – “the illustrations that add life to a town’s story,” said Alsobrooks. “But what was most



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

News Review Editor Mary Lou Williamson, left, receives an Honorary Legacy Builder award from Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks on March 30.

noteworthy about this small, volunteer-assisted publication,” said Alsobrooks, “is that from the earliest days of the paper, the work was carried by women. Twelve of the 18 staff members were women. Women like Dorothy Sucher and Mary Lou Williamson, who shared editing duties

as both, and a few other staffers also, dealt with the full-time call of motherhood.”

Alsobrooks went on to share how covering city council led the paper to become embroiled in a lawsuit with a wealthy developer.

See **AWARD**, page 16

Lessons from the MCAPS: Strengths and Struggles

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

HOW DID MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS DO OVERALL?

Overall Elementary school grade span performance is provided by indicator and includes possible points and earned points. Annual target status is also provided.

INDICATOR	POSSIBLE POINTS	EARNED POINTS*	ANNUAL TARGET	IMPROVEMENT
Academic Achievement	20.0	7.1	⊕	⊕
Academic Progress	35.0	15.6	n/a	⊕
Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency	10.0	6.2	✓	⊕
School Quality and Student Success	35.0	25.3	n/a	✓

* Earned points may not equal total points due to rounding. ✓ =Met ⊕ =Not Met

At the Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) board meeting on March 23, the board of education reviewed a presentation of the data from the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP), which was recently released disaggregated by district and school, and is commonly referred to as the Maryland Report Card. (For more on the county’s results in the state assessments see PGCPS Students’ Declines in Math Called “Concerning” in the February 2 issue of the News Review.)

Pandemic Impact

The administrative team em-

phasized that students who were kindergarteners during the early pandemic are now in third grade and those students have missed some critical time for math. Walter Fields, appointed, at-large board member, said the presentation “really tells an incredible story: This pandemic was devastating. And you see it in the cohort analysis. And when you see the drop-off in mathematics.”

In-Person Instruction Essential

CEO Monica Goldson said in-person instruction for mathematics, particularly for younger

See **MCAPS**, page 8

What Goes On

Tuesday, April 11
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, April 12
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: NASA Goddard/Greenbelt Fire Department, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

Residents Oppose Changing Residency Rule for Manager

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The second public hearing on the proposed change to the city charter requiring residency for the city manager found scant support in the small but vocal group of online and in-person residents who attended the hearing on Saturday morning, April 1.

Residents Elizabeth “Lolly” Gaines, Cathie Meetre, Greenwood Village HOA President

Aisha Rice and Bill Orleans spoke in person, and emails from Molly Lester and Lois Rosado were read into the record by City Clerk Bonita Anderson. Only Rice was in favor of removing the residency requirement on a case-by-case consideration.

Gaines called for a referendum

See **CHARTER**, page 10



PHOTO BY KARL HILLE

ERHS robotics team members Joseph Conaty, left, and Jonathan Hille adjust their robot between matches at the US Open Tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa. See story, page 16.

From the Editor's Desk

News Review Women Honored

What an amazing and happy surprise when our Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks honored the Greenbelt News Review's story of strong women in leadership roles for most of the past five decades – as both president of the board and editor, reporters and others who produce the weekly paper.

I was overwhelmed to accept a standing ovation from the hundreds of county employees and friends at the 38th Annual Prince George's County Executive's Luncheon Celebrating Women's History Month last week.

Mary Lou Williamson

Letters to the Editor

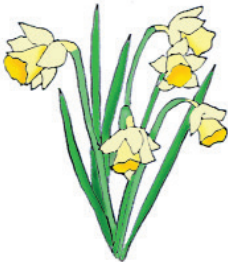
Clerk Offers Correction

I want to make a correction to the Municipal Election article in the March 23 News Review. This appears on the bottom of page 9, column 1, in the parenthesis, the comment "College Park (which mails ballots to all registered voters)...." I am the city clerk and election administrator for the City of College Park elections. We do not mail ballots to every registered voter. In our 2021 election, we did mail applications (but not ballots) to all registered voters. We have never mailed ballots to all registered voters, and do not plan to do so in our 2023 General Election.

As a resident of Greenbelt, I thank you for such a thorough and detailed article.

If there are any questions, please let me know.

Janeen S. Miller, CMC, CERA
City Clerk



Women Pioneers Of Reparation

I appreciated the well written and researched article on Black women and reparations written by LaWann Stribling in last week's GNR. Learning the fight of Henrietta Wood and Belinda Sutton to gain settlements for kidnapping and enslavement was both uplifting and distressing at the same time. I already knew about Callie House.

House shared something with Marcus Garvey. Both were arrested for mail fraud. The same accusations were made by the postal service because the federal government had no other means to stop House's organizing of former enslaved women who were demanding reparations.

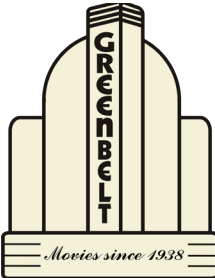
In Garvey's case, to stop the development of the Pan Africanist movement that was beginning to develop. This movement exposed the racial contradictions and economic inequities existing then and now in the United States.

Thank you for the wonderful women's history lesson, Ms. Stribling.

Lois Rosado

Corrections

In the March 30 spotlight on Isabelle Gournay, the headline incorrectly identified her as an architect. She is an architectural historian.



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www.greenbelttheatre.org

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OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
APRIL 7TH - APRIL 13TH

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

A Thousand and One (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2023) (116 mins)

Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Sat. 2:30 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM, 5:00 PM
Tues. 5:15 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:00 PM

Little Richard: I Am Everything (NR)
(2023) (98 mins)

Tues. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Air (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2023) (112 mins)

Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 2:45 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM, 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM (OC), 5:15 PM
Tues. 7:30 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM



- News Review, April 14, 2022



Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

A Thousand and One

The film follows unapologetic and free-spirited Inez (Teyana Taylor), who kidnaps her son, 6-year-old Terry, from the foster care system. Holding onto their secret and each other, mother and son set out to reclaim their sense of home, identity and stability in a rapidly changing New York City. "The film is anchored by the unforgettable powerhouse performance from Teyana Taylor," said critic Loren King of AWFJ.org. "A Thousand and One is rich and complex," said critic Alison Willmore of New York Magazine/Vulture, "the saga of someone battling to build a family and a stable home with no real experience of what that looks like."

Little Richard: I Am Everything

This documentary tells the story of the Black queer origins of rock 'n' roll, exploding the whitewashed canon of American pop music to reveal the innovator – the originator – Richard Penniman, aka Little Richard. Through a wealth of archive and performance that brings us into Richard's complicated inner world, the film unspools the icon's life story with all its switchbacks and contradictions. In interviews with family, musicians and cutting-edge Black and queer scholars, the film reveals how Richard created an art form for ultimate self-expression, yet what he gave to the world he was never able to give to himself. Throughout his life, he careened like a shiny cracked pinball between God, sex and rock 'n' roll. The world tried to put him in a box, but Richard was an omni being who contained multitudes – he was unabashedly everything.

Air

From award-winning director Ben Affleck, Air reveals the game-changing partnership between a then-rookie Michael Jordan and Nike's fledgling basketball division which revolutionized the world of sports and contemporary culture with the Air Jordan brand. This moving story follows the career-defining gamble of an unconventional team with everything on the line, the uncompromising vision of a mother who knows the worth of her son's immense talent and the basketball phenom who would become the greatest of all time.

Community Events

School Supplies Spring Giveaway

P.G. Change Makers will distribute school supplies, free for everyone as long as supplies last, on Saturday, April 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the TJ Maxx Corridor at Beltway Plaza.

Festival Committee Meeting Tuesday

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee will have its annual membership meeting on Tuesday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 114.

New volunteers are welcome to come to the meeting and help run this year’s Labor Day Festival. At the meeting, the committee will elect the board of directors and vote on the budget. The committee meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month until August, when there are more frequent meetings as the Labor Day weekend approaches. More information is available from the Festival website at greenbeltlaborday.com. The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, operated since 1955, is one of the largest all-volunteer-run festivals in Maryland and is a high point of the city’s civic calendar.

Democrats Focus On Union Problems

The Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club’s membership meeting will be held Friday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Local Plumbers & Gasfitters Union Hall, 5000 Forbes Boulevard, Lanham. The club will not hold its meeting at its usual site of the Greenbriar Community Building due to the flooding that occurred last month.

The meeting will feature the challenges that unions face. Speaking for the union will be James (Lou) Spencer, assistant business agent of Local 5, Plumbers & Gasfitters Union. While addressing the standing of unions from a general perspective, Spencer will focus on challenges posed when workers are misclassified as independent contractors, undermining the local unions.

For more information or help with the location visit the club at rooseveltclub.com. Since this meeting is outside of Greenbelt, attendees should try to carpool.

Join Garden Angels

Retirees and telecommuters who want an outdoor lunch break are invited to attend a work session of a Woodlands Committee group addressing the biodiversity crisis in the community on Thursday, April 13 from noon to 1 p.m. This year, the Committee will create nurturing habitat by propagating native plants, removing invasives and installing the plants they’ve nurtured in common spaces in Greenbelt. Meet on the bike path next to the Hillside Road underpass, just a bit uphill from the Firefly Sanctuary. There is work for all kinds of bodies, so those who can dig all day and those who want to get their hands in the soil while seated at a table, should come out. For more information, contact SowingStrength2@gmail.com.



Greenbelt Chess Club

The Chess Club will meet on Monday, April 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. in New Deal Café.

All skill levels are welcome. For more information or questions, call Effie at 443-415-1053.

Greenbelt Park Campfire Program

Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. come to Greenbelt Park, sit by the campfire and gaze up through the surrounding forest into the darkening sky at dusk while learning about NASA public projects contributing to a better understanding of the Earth. Speakers Dr. Agnes Conaty and Larry Hilliard will describe their work at Goddard Space Flight Center. To become an amateur astronomer and space scientist, meet at the Campfire Circle in B loop at 7:30 p.m.

CHEARS to Exhibit Floral Photography

The CHEARS floral photography event will take place in April. Anyone can submit their laminated floral photos and they will be displayed in the Three Sisters Garden-East in Schrom Hills Park. For more details, call Effie Levner at 443-415-1053.

Luminis Lifts Mask Mandate

Luminis Health has ended universal masking at all its facilities, including Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center, Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center, as well as all other clinical and non-clinical areas. Masking is optional for all staff, patients and visitors.

Golden Age Club

April is a busy and exciting month for the Greenbelt Golden Age Club. Meetings are held at the Community Center, Room 201, every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon.

April 12 is the Annual Spring Auction, always a favorite meeting. Members have donated new (or like new) items on which members can bid. Raffle tickets are sold and half of a ticket is dropped into the bag next to the items for bid. Jewelry? Yes. Books? Yes. Scarves and knick-knacks? Yes.

The club’s Anniversary Luncheon and April birthday celebration will be at noon on April 19 at the Holiday Inn in College Park (for members who have already registered and paid). There will be no meeting in the Community Center on that day.

April 26 is Bingo, with lots of new items on the prize table.

Call for Artists

New Deal Café is looking for artists to participate in the annual Green Man group art show. The theme this year is Remembrance: Our Ancestors and Our Roots. Submissions for this show are due by Monday, April 24, and can be submitted for consideration to artworksbymaryann@gmail.com. There is no limit on the number of submissions. The art show will run from May 1 until July 3.



Bees, Crafts, Bake Sale at Comm. Church

Bees are coming to Greenbelt Community Church and the public is invited to join the hive. On Sunday, April 23 from 3 to 5 p.m., the church will host a Heifer Fair to have fun and raise money and awareness about the importance of bees. The money will be used by Heifer International, whose mission is to help people in need help themselves by providing livestock, trees and honeybees, along with training on how to raise these animals.

The Heifer Fair will feature a beeswax candle craft and a honey-focused bake sale, which are part of the fundraiser. In addition, there will be free exhibits, puzzles and activities and, weather permitting, an observation hive from Bowie-Upper Marlboro Beekeepers Association.

GCC is located at 1 Hillside Road. Donations can be made at the fair, or on the church’s website, greenbeltcommunitychurch.org, by selecting the Give button. For more information email Jan Derry at janmderry@yahoo.com.



Community Church Clothing Drive

The Greenbelt Community Church’s next drive for clothing and small household items will occur on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m. to noon and Sunday, April 23 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The church is located at 1 Hillside Road.

Prepare donations by placing clothing items in plastic bags and household items in boxes that one person can carry and books in separate boxes. Oversized items cannot be accepted. Donations will be taken to Value Village, which pays the church; the church uses the money to help fund local charities.

Workday for Restoring Some GHI Woodland

Help with planting for the benefit of fireflies, butterflies and birds. The Woodlands Committee is hosting a workday on Sunday, April 9 from 9 a.m. to noon, removing invasive shrubs and vines, moving mulch and planting spicebush and native wildflowers. Meet on the bike path near the Hillside Road underpass, which is between 13 and 19 Courts Hillside Road, just a bit uphill from the Firefly Sanctuary.

What to bring: A face mask for when in proximity to others; clothes that cover the skin – leather gloves and thick pants to protect against scratches are recommended; loppers, pruning shears, towels and shovels.

For more information, contact SowingStrength2@gmail.com.

Novel Endings Tells Its Story

This month’s Greenbelt in Focus, a public affairs program produced by Greenbelt Access Television (GATe), visits the Greenbelt Library’s volunteer-staffed bookstore, Novel Endings, where sales of gently used books for children and adults, CDs and record albums are sold to benefit the Library’s operations.

Program host Konrad Herling talks to two volunteers of the Friends of the Greenbelt Library, Annie Shaw and Joe Robbins, to discuss its mission and how residents can apply to volunteer.

Novel Endings bookstore is located on the library’s first floor in back of the children’s section. Suggested donations for the items on sale are listed in the bookstore and are accepted on an honor system in a cash box adjacent to the main desk.

Greenbelt in Focus is a production of Greenbelt Access Television, and can be viewed on Verizon Cable’s channel 19 or Comcast Cable’s channel 77. Streaming is available at greenbeltaccessstv.org.

More Community Events
are located throughout the paper.



Greenbelt Access Television

Apr. 8, Sat. - Apr. 14, Fri
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
[Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
Little Shop of Horrors (1960)
The original Little Shop of Horrors, directed by “king of cult” Roger Corman. Dark comedy starring Jonathan Hayes as aspiring horticulturist Seymour who creates a new plant species, and a debut performance from Jack Nicholson. Perfect for Spring!

Music from the New Deal Cafe (2pm, 10pm)
NEW SEASON
Rain Crow
Season 7 kicks off strong with Rain Crow, as they bring acoustic old time tunes back to life and turn modern tunes into blues ballads.

All this and more on the GATe channel this week! Check greenbeltaccessstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](#) for new video productions.



This Week at the New Deal Café



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TH 4/6	FRI 4/7	SAT 4/8	SUN 4/9
Wolf's Blues Show and Sit-In Jam 6:30-10pm A big, bodacious boogie blues jam.	ilyAIMY 8-11pm A mix of varied genres: folk, soul, bluegrass, jazz and hip hop	New Blue Soul 8-11pm DC octet melding old school blues & soul into modern originals	Deaf Brunch* 10:30a-12pm The Thrills 6-8pm High energy dance band

MON 4/10	TUES 4/11	WED 4/12	TH 4/13	MON - FRI
Membership Appreciation Night* 4-9pm Chess Club* 6-8pm Frenchy/Punk, Guitamy of One 6:45-9pm	NDC Open Mic w/ Tom Woycheck-Gleason 7-9pm Sign-in's at 6:30pm	Suzanne Brindamour and Annette Wasilik 7-9pm Soul-stirring music by two stellar DC artists	The Potecasi Slade Experience 7-9pm Funky soulful blues band with a touch of rock	Happy Hour 4-7pm \$1.00 off beer and wine

It's time to renew your membership or join NDC. Go to www.newdealcafe.com, click on “ABOUT”, then “BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW.”

*** For more information, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website.**

Obituaries

Jacqueline McFarland



Jackie McFarland

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden death of Jacqueline Mary McFarland on March 22, 2023, from an apparent heart attack.

Born during the blizzard the day before JFK’s inauguration in 1961, and named for the new First Lady, she was better known to the many who loved her as Jackie or Wacky. She was the seventh child (out of eight) born to Greenbelt residents Henry and Kathleen McFarland. Jackie attended St. Hugh’s School, Greenbelt North End Elementary and Mary Bethune Junior High. She was a member of the first full graduating class of Eleanor Roosevelt High School. She spent seven years living in Tempe, Ariz., with her youngest daughter. There she was able to follow her passion and love of plants by earning an associate’s degree in applied science at Mesa Community College in their Landscape Horticulture program.

Jackie was known for her great love of plants and animals. She grew up with many pets and in adulthood developed a love for Great Danes – the past two years she could be seen walking her beloved Zuko in the early mornings before work. Jackie also had a lifelong love of music (favorites were John Prine and Lynyrd Skynyrd), something she had in common with her entire family. She would almost always say yes to going to a live performance, especially if it was the Nighthawks playing at the Labor Day Festival or the New Deal Café.

Most of her career was spent in the legal field. She was a talented legal secretary for several different law offices over the years, and at the time of her death she was judicial assistant to the Honorable Timothy J. Sullivan at the Federal Courthouse

in Greenbelt. When she wasn’t working, Jackie’s tender heart and ability to do what needed to be done meant she was always lending a helping hand, whether watching a small child or caring for an elderly relative. She also enjoyed photography, playing softball with the Slugs and spending time with family and friends, often involving Ledo’s pizza. Jackie was privileged to live near her three daughters and four grandchildren, with whom she loved spending any time that she could.

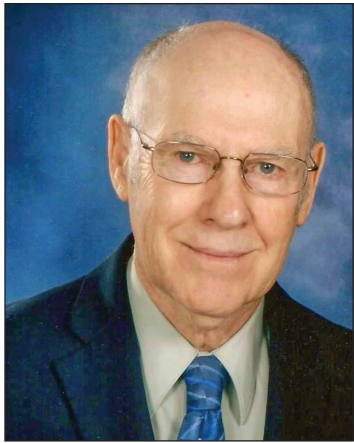
Jackie is survived by her mother, Kathleen McFarland; daughters Erin, Erika and Elizabeth (Liz) Thomas; grandchildren Henry, Sebastian, Violet and Scarlet; siblings Karen, Karl, Lisa, Janis, Joan, Anne and Helen and their children Ryan, Marina, Kathleen, Connor and Samantha; and her Kennedy and Scott cousins.

She was predeceased by her grandparents, Greenbelt Pioneers Mary and Red Scott; her father, Henry T. McFarland; and her nephews Mick and David Dodge.

There will be a celebration of Jackie’s life on Sunday, June 18 at the Greenbelt American Legion.



Gene Whaples



Gene Whaples

Gene Child Whaples, age 85, of Greenbelt, died peacefully at home just before sunrise on March 28, 2023.

Gene grew up in Glastonbury and Storrs, Conn., where he learned to love nature, camping and animals and developed a passion for serving others and making the world around him a better place. His father was the State 4-H Club leader for the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System, and young Gene was very active in 4-H and raised chickens and sheep. He attended Windham High School where he was a fullback on the football team and graduated in 1956. Upon graduation from high school, he studied at the University of Connecticut, where he met the love of his life,

Marlene Dreher, and they married in 1959. In 1960, he graduated with a B.S. in agriculture.

He loved his country, and received an ROTC commission in the U.S. Army, where he became an Airborne Ranger. He achieved the rank of Captain and served both domestically and in West Germany. Prior to his commission, he also served in the Connecticut Air National Guard.

After leaving the military in 1964, he and his young family moved to Manhattan, Kan., where he received an M.S. in extension education from Kansas State University. From 1965 to 1969, Gene worked as a county 4-H agent for the State of Michigan Cooperative Extension Service. In 1969, the family relocated to New Carrollton and Gene began his career as a member of the faculty at the University of Maryland. In 1974, he earned a Ph.D. in extension and continuing education. He continued to work as a 4-H and youth development leader, and in 1978 the family moved to Lanham. He was deeply involved in the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE), and served as president from 1982 to 1983.

During these years in Maryland, the family would always

See OBITUARIES, page 6



Our sympathy to the family and friends of Gene Whaples. He will be remembered for his service to the U.S. Army, to his community through leadership in 4-H and continuing education and to his church, in which he was a deacon and elder.

Our condolences, again, to the family and friends of Jackie McFarland, especially her mother, Kathleen McFarland, a long-time News Review stalwart.

Congratulations to the Eleanor Roosevelt Robotics Club, the Team 53 Alien Raiders, who qualified for and competed in the U.S. Open Robotics Championship in March.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



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MASS

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Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come as you are



Alleluia!

Join Us for Holy Week

Palm Sunday

April 2, 10:15 am

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 7 pm

Easter Sunday

April 9, 10:15 am

Greenbelt Community Church United Church of Christ

1 Hillside Road

Rev. Clara Young

The Bible Says...

Resurrection Sunday!

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life;
the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies."
John 11:25



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services

10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School

[MCFcc.org](https://www.mcfcc.org)



Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



April 9, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Easter Sunday: The Hope that Raises Us

Rev. Ann Kadlecsek with Liturgist Sabrina Jones

What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist celebrating Easter in these times? Is there a hope in the Easter story that's available to all of us? On this Easter Sunday, drawing on Christian scripture and poetry, we'll explore these questions together.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

Greenbelt
BAPTIST
CHURCH

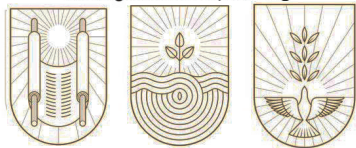
Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am

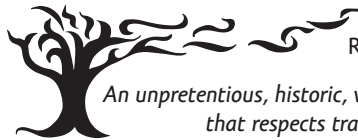
Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue
that respects tradition and becomes your extended family
in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Holy Thursday

April 6, 7:30pm

Mass of the Lord's Supper

(Live Streamed on FB)

Good Friday

April 7

Noon: Living Stations

2pm: Traditional
Stations of the Cross

7:30pm Liturgy of the
Lord's Passion

(Live Streamed on FB)

Easter Sunday

April 8, 8pm,

The Vigil of Easter

(Live Streamed on FB)

April 9: 8, 9:30, and 11am

Sunday Masses

Saint Hugh Catholic Church

135 Crescent Rd.

sthughofgrenoble.org

The Paschal Triduum





City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations
- Telecommunications Week Proclamation
* Minutes of Council Meetings
- Administrative Reports
* Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

- City Manager Residency Charter Amendment
2nd Reading, Adoption

OTHER BUSINESS

- Business Infrastructure Fund Grant Program (ARPA)
- Workforce Development Scholarship Program (ARPA)
- Award of Request for Proposal - Architectural Design Services for the Municipal Building
- Board of Elections Report #2023 -02 (Proposed Code Amendments: Early Voting)
- State and County Legislation
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Meetings
* Stakeholders
* Appointment to Advisory Board

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

MEETINGS FOR APRIL 10-14

Monday, April 10, **REGULAR MEETING MOVED TO TUESDAY**

Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**

Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - NASA GODDARD/ GREENBELT FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Thursday, April 13 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Thursday, April 13 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Discussion of the Plateau Place Shooting, Review of Weekly Police Reports, Updating of Security Camera Report, 2022 Department Community Policing Report*

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT WEST PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 11 AM - 1 PM
SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER

Registration required via QR or via Brendy Garcia (240) 424-0302.

20 DE ABRIL, 11 AM - 1 PM
CENTRO RECREATIVO DE SPRINGHILL LAKE, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Para residentes oeste de Greenbelt. SOLO 50 ESPACIOS DISPONIBLES.



GREENBELT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

Application period has been extended until June 15!

The purpose of the Greenbelt Education Scholarship grant is to provide assistance for residents interested in furthering their education beyond high school. Scholarships can be used to assist with the cost of college, trade school, or other educational opportunities.

Qualified residents are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 over two years. For more information visit greenbeltmd.gov/scholarship.

2023 GREENBELT WELCOME KITS

The City of Greenbelt Welcome Kit is back! This long-standing tradition of providing new Greenbelt residents a physical welcome to the community is in full swing.

The City of Greenbelt, Public Information Office, is now accepting items (flyers, pens, postcards, brochures, tchotchkes, etc.) to be added to the 2023 Welcome Kit for new Greenbelt residents. If you want to include any information about your business, club, or organization, please send 250 promotional items to the address below **by Friday, April 14**.

25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt MD 20770

Request for Proposal

Buddy Attick Park Master Plan
City of Greenbelt RFP No. 2023-03-R

The City of Greenbelt, Maryland, is requesting submission of proposals from all parties wishing to be considered for consulting services related to the City of Greenbelt's Buddy Attick Park Master Plan. The complete Request for Proposal package can be accessed at www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation (beginning Thursday, March 16, 2023) or requested by emailing cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov.

Bids are due by 11 am on Monday, April 18, 2023.

Green Ridge House Opens Wait List

Green Ridge House, the City of Greenbelt's HUD Section 8-202 apartment building, will open its waiting list from Monday, April 10 thru 14, 2023 from 9 am to 4 pm. Green Ridge House is an independent living apartment building located at 22 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. **All applicants must apply in person and be 62 years of age or older. All applicants must have with them a valid State ID or Driver's License and their Social Security card. We cannot accept an application without these two items.** All applicants will have a credit and criminal background check performed to determine eligibility. Applicants should be prepared to move within 30 days once they receive a call that a unit is available. Rent is based upon 30 percent of one's income within a maximum gross income of \$49,850 for individuals and \$56,950 for couples. All apartments are one-bedroom units. Only applicants who would consider moving within the next 6 months to one year should apply. Green Ridge House is a Non-Smoking Building.



NON-PROFIT RECOVERY GRANT

The City of Greenbelt has begun accepting applications from eligible nonprofit organizations for a one time "recovery" grant made possible through the allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Qualified nonprofits will be eligible to apply for grants up to \$25,000, as allowed by ARPA, to address negative impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding for this grant program is provided under the American Rescue Plan Act through the U.S. Department of Treasury. Under the U.S. Treasury guidelines, nonprofits eligible for assistance are those that experienced negative economic impacts or disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and meet the definition of "nonprofit" – specifically those that are 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax-exempt organizations.

To apply, visit <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/87940-City-Of-Greenbelt>

TREE CANOPY GRANTS

The City of Greenbelt is awarding a one-time, reimbursable grant to go directly towards the purchase of trees to assist homeowners and community organizations with the planting or replacement of trees caused by storm damage, disease or invasive insects. Funding for this grant will be provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and can be used to purchase, install, stake and mulch the area the tree or trees will be planted.

Applications are now open. To apply, visit engagegreenbelt.org or visit <https://forms.monday.com/forms/4a129f7cd3ba497f50f3ced54a200b2a?r=use1>.

For questions on the grant, email treecanopy@greenbeltmd.gov.

Deadline to apply is no later than **June 1, 2023, at 4:30 pm**.

GREENBELT MICRO GRANTS

The City of Greenbelt Micro Grant is a one-time, matching, reimbursable grant intended to be a resident-led initiative to build community and engage new people across neighborhoods. This is a one-time, reimbursable grant funded through the American Rescue Plan Act to help communities move beyond the COVID pandemic and to broaden Greenbelt's connections to all its neighborhoods and residents. HOA'S, Condominium Associations, Apartment Complexes, GHI Co-op, and Community Coalitions registered as 501 (c) 3 are eligible to apply for one of three types of grants, 1) Community Event Grant, 2) Neighborhood Communication Grant, and 3) Neighborhood Improvement Grant.

To learn more about and apply for the grant opportunities, please visit <https://forms.monday.com/forms/7575c04647a68ad4ff464c00401f684d?r=use1>

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS GRANT PROGRAM

Find out more about the City of Greenbelt First-Time Homebuyers grant program today! The grant funds can be used for closing costs and/or down payment for FHA, VA, USDA, FNMA, or Freddie Mac loans. <http://ow.ly/xlKZ50My327>

ENGAGE GREENBELT

For all up-to-date ARPA program updates including mortgage assistance programs, scholarships, first-time homebuyer grant programs, small business assistance, and more visit www.engagegreenbelt.org.

BIKE TO WORK DAY.

GREENBELT PIT STOP.,
GAFC PARKING LOT
FRIDAY, MAY 19 6:30 - 8:30 AM.



Registration is open and free!
www.biketoworkmetrodc.org

PRE-K STORY HOUR (BILINGUAL)

Friday, April 14, at 10:30 am
Springhill Lake Recreation

Come enjoy the wonderful world of storytelling!

For more information contact joseph.vincent@pgcmls.info or spreadruak@gmail.com

UNDERWATER EGG HUNT

Friday, April 7, at GAFC

A fun new twist on the traditional egg hunt. This event is limited to 35 children per section.



Registration opens March 20 for residents, March 22 for non-residents, and ends April 3.

231101-1: 10 am, Ages 6 months to 5 years

231101-2: 11 am, Ages 4 - 11

231101-3: 12 pm, Ages 8 - 15

PH: \$1, RNPH: \$2, NRNPH: \$3

For more information, call (301) 397-2204.

ANNUAL EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 8, 10 am
Buddy Attick Park

Come out and celebrate Spring at an egg-citing event! Bring your baskets to collect the eggs; each age group will have one golden egg hidden among the other eggs. We will also have a special visit from the Spring Bunny. Don't forget to bring your cameras!

YOUTH CENTER GYM CLOSED APRIL 10-30

Recreation's Youth Center Gym will be closed due to floor resurfacing.

SEASONAL SUMMER STAFF NEEDED

Greenbelt Recreation is seeking Lifeguards, Camp Managers, Camp Counselors, Camp Specialists, Inclusion Counselors and Camp Interns. These seasonal summer positions offer employment from mid-June through late August.

For more information on job openings and application visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs

GREENBELT RECREATION'S SPRING GUIDE 2023

www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide

GREENBELT RECREATION'S SUMMER CAMP GUIDE AT

www.greenbeltmd.gov/camps

SPRING CAMPS AVAILABLE
APRIL 3-7, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

More Community Events

Greenbelt PORCH April Pickup Schedule

SNAP emergency allotments are ending, support Greenbelt PORCH, Greenbelt's answer to hunger.

If there is no monthly food drive in the neighborhood (see the schedule below), one can help through P.A.L. (PORCH At Large). To participate, simply contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com with one's address by noon on the scheduled monthly pickup date and leave the donation by the front door marked RUAK or PORCH visible from the street. Ensure donated items have not expired.

April pickups are as follows:

Sunday, April 9. By 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge, 1-8 Courts Crescent and 1-2 Courts Westway

Saturday, April 15. By 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, April 16. By 4 p.m. on for Boxwood Village and P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors)

Sunday, April 23. By 4 p.m. for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road and 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road and by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are always welcome. PORCH is particularly looking for coordinators in the Greenbelt East area. Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Health Screenings Offered At American Legion

Residents of Greenbelt can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 will host this event on Thursday, April 13. The site is located at 6900 Greenbelt Road in Greenbelt.

Screenings can check for the level of plaque buildup in arteries, related to risk for cardiovascular disease, stroke and overall vascular health; HDL and LDL cholesterol levels; diabetes risk; kidney and thyroid function, and more.

Screenings are affordable and convenient. Free parking is also available.

There is a fee, but consultants will work with attendees to create a suitable package based on age and risk factors. Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit the website at lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Mondays and Wednesdays at the Community Center beginning at 11 a.m. Meals must be reserved one week ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215.

All meals, which provide at least one-third of Recommended Dietary Allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of April 10 are as follows:

Monday, April 10: Ham with pineapple glaze, scalloped potatoes, green peas, whole wheat roll, fluffy fruit salad, orange juice and oatmeal cookie. There will be a vegetarian option which has not been announced.

Wednesday, April 12: Southwest chicken, Spanish rice, Mexicali vegetable, whole wheat bread, cinnamon applesauce and orange juice. There will be a vegetarian option which has not been announced.

Community Yard Sale At Firehouse April 15

Ready, Set, Go – and clean out sheds, cubby holes and closets to find those yard sale treasures. The ladies' auxiliary to the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department will be holding their much-anticipated indoor community yard sale on Saturday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at 125 Crescent Road. Stop by to help support the fire department and ladies' auxiliary. While there visit the many tables of wonderful bargains. Refreshments and homemade baked items will also be available for purchase. There are still tables available to rent. See the classified ad for further details. The firehouse is handicapped accessible.

Community Orchestra Needs Musicians

Plans are underway to start a community orchestra in Greenbelt. Anyone who plays an orchestral instrument or who is interested in helping out in some capacity is encouraged to fill out an interest form to gauge whether there is enough interest to move forward with the plans. The form is available at tinyurl.com/GreenbeltOrchestra.

For more information, contact Anne Gardner at annegreenbelt@gmail.com.



Peace Builders Camp

Greenbelt Community Church will host a Peace Builder Camp July 24 to 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The camps are week-long Little Friends for Peace programs designed to introduce peace to children ages 5 to 14. The camp utilizes art, games and presentations to teach children mindfulness, empathy, anger management, conflict resolution and self-empowerment. Students bring their own lunches.

For cost and to register, visit lffp.org/peacecamp. For more information, email peacecamp@lffp.org or call MJ Park at 240-838-4549.

Scout Troop 214 Has Open House

Calling all Webelos scouts who are completing the Order of Light or a fifth grader interested in Scouting. Come to Troop 214's Open House on Tuesday, April 11, 7 to 8 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 6700 Kenilworth Ave., Riverdale Park. Learn about all the exciting activities the troop participates in (camping, hiking, rock climbing and more) and the skills the scouts develop. Troop 214 has both boys and girls troops. All are welcome to come and discover the scouting experience.

CHEARS Poetry In the Garden April 23

Poetry in the Garden has been postponed to Sunday, April 23 from 3 to 5 p.m. in Schrom Hills Park, Three Sisters Garden-East. For details, call Effie Levner at 443-415-1053.



Obituaries continued

return to the rustic Whaples family cottage on Crystal Pond in Eastford, Conn., for extended summer vacations at "the lake" and, in 1983, Gene returned to his home state to join the faculty of the University of Connecticut and settle in Mansfield Center with his wife and youngest daughter. He retired as professor and associate director of the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System in 1994.

After retirement, he built a home in Eastford with his son David, who designed the house. Gene and Marlene spent 11 years in Eastford and 14 in Louisburg, N.C., before relocating to Old Greenbelt in 2020 to be closer to family. Gene enjoyed working with wood throughout his life and remodeled several homes and made beautiful furniture, cutting boards and bowls. He also loved gardening, hiking and traveling with his wife Marlene, and together they instilled a love of the outdoors in all of their children. Gene was an avid reader, had a mischievous sense of humor and touched countless people through

the years with his wisdom and integrity. He was active in the church, serving as a deacon, elder and chairman of the church council, and shared his great faith with all who knew him.

He will be greatly missed by his family: beloved wife of more than 63 years, Marlene Dreher Whaples of Greenbelt, and children Diane Whaples-Lee (Tim) of Odenton; Dr. Robert Whaples (Regina) of Winston-Salem, N.C.; David Whaples (Marilou) and Laura Whaples Petix, both of Greenbelt. He leaves eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and his brother Randolph Whaples, Jr. (Mary Ellen) of Melbourne, Fla.. He was predeceased by his parents, Randolph and Beatrice Whaples of Storrs, Conn., and brother Donald (Myrna) of Barre, Vt. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Samaritan's Purse or Greenbelt Baptist Church, 101 Greenhill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. A memorial service will be held at Greenbelt Baptist Church on Saturday, April 15 at 2 p.m.

Community Church Celebrates Holy Week


This week is Holy Week for the Christian church. At Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, the week began with Palm Sunday observances on April 2. On April 6, a Maundy Thursday observance and reflection begins at 7 p.m. The Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association hosts an Easter Sunrise Service at Buddy Attick Lake Park on April 9 at 7 a.m. At 10:15 a.m., Easter services and an egg hunt will take place at Greenbelt Community Church.



Easter Sunrise Service At Buddy Attick Park

An ecumenical Easter sunrise service will be held on Sunday, April 9 at 7 a.m. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket to sit on. Rain location will be the Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads.





St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church

Holy Week and Easter

4512 College Avenue
College Park
301.864.8880
www.saeccp.org
Office@saeccp.org

PALM SUNDAY	April 2	8 & 10:30AM	Blessing of the Palms and Holy Eucharist
Maundy Thursday	April 6	7:30PM	Holy Eucharist & Foot Washing
Good Friday	April 7	Noon & 7:30PM	Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday
Holy Saturday	April 8	10am SHARP 7:30PM	Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Sunday	April 9	10:30AM	The Great Vigil of Easter & Holy Eucharist Festival Holy Eucharist

"See, I am near" says the Lord.. "See, I make all things new."

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue in Beltsville, MD;
(at the corner of Route 1 & Powder Mill Road)

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector,
Welcomes you to Holy Week and Easter Sunday Services:

Thursday, April 6, 7:00pm; Maundy Thursday with Holy Eucharist

Friday, April 7, 12 Noon; Good Friday Service with Stations of the Cross
7:00pm – Good Friday Service with Holy Eucharist

Sunday, April 9, 9:00am Easter Sunday - Holy Eucharist Family Service
11:30am Easter Sunday - Holy Eucharist (Easter Egg Hunt after the Service)

www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org 301-937-4292
office@saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Easter Changes Everything!

Come Discover Why at **MCF Community Church**

Sundays, 10a - 11:15a

Greenbelt Elementary School
66 Ridge Rd., Greenbelt, 20770

MCFcc.org

City Council Hears the Latest on Greenbelt Park Trails; Parkway Signs and Rails

by Deanna Dawson

Greenbelt Park was the topic of the March 15 Greenbelt City Council work session and the overall message was that park operations are coming back to normal. Mike Commisso, deputy superintendent for National Capital Parks-East, which administers Greenbelt Park and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (from Md. 175 to U.S. 50) as well as 13 other parks, represented the National Park Service (NPS).

The biggest step forward for Greenbelt Park was the reopening of the trails on March 10 after an eight-month closure following the July 2022 windstorm (see Greenbelt News Review, March 16, 2023). Park staff reopened the campground in October 2022, but the trails were in worse shape, blocked by many fallen trees. Staff and contractors started clearing the trails and an NPS Arborist Incident Response team worked for two weeks straight to finish the job. There still is work to do, notably a washout along the Perimeter Trail at the fire road that heads to the southwest corner of the park. Comfort stations in the Holly and Laurel Picnic Areas are still closed but portable toilets and hand-washing stations have been placed there so the areas are useable by groups for gatherings.

Staffing

Maintenance work has been hampered by a shortage of staff, and both site managers have retired so those positions are open. Filling vacancies has been a challenge, in part because the jobs cannot be done remotely, which limits their appeal, and there are open human resources positions at National Capital Parks-East which slows the hiring process. Currently there are about 20 employees who work in Greenbelt Park and the Parkway, including two ranger naturalists; a few seasonal employees generally are hired during the summer months. There also are host volunteers in the campground and interns enlisted through Conservation Legacy or the Student Conservation Association.

Recently NPS transitioned to contracting some routine maintenance work, including mowing along the Parkway and servicing restrooms in Greenbelt Park. A cost-benefit analysis was done before deciding which positions to contract; skilled maintenance positions, such as mechanics and electricians, will continue to be federal employees.

Mayor Emmett Jordan inquired about the work project taking place in the section of Greenbelt Park east of the Parkway. Commisso replied that WSSC has been replacing water lines in that tract, with the work finally nearing completion. Other recent large projects have been the resurfacing of roads, which closed the park for many months before the storm-related closure, and construction of a new bridge over Still Creek.

Public Programs

Commisso reported that public programs are resuming, with campfire programs scheduled for every Saturday evening in April and May. These will include a drum circle on April 22 for Earth Day and a program by the Greenbelt Museum on May 13.

Councilmember Judith Davis was pleased to learn that the park is interacting with the Museum, and she encouraged that they do more programs on Greenbelt's history, noting the historical site – Tooping Castle, one of the earliest local land grants and homes – that lies across Greenbelt Road from the park. Jordan encouraged Commisso to send schedules of public programs to the city and to the News Review.

Commisso noted that Ranger Kevin Barry gave free passes to NPS parks to Greenbelt Elementary School fourth graders as part of the Every Kid Outdoors program (see last week's issue).

Jordan also asked about the bike races that have taken place in Greenbelt Park, and Commisso replied that Velo, the group that organizes them, had just submitted an application for a permit to again hold weeknight training races at the park.

Resident Bill Orleans asked if NPS has considered operating a shuttle service along park roads for people who arrive by bicycle, bus or foot, noting the long uphill slope between the park entrance and the ranger station. Commisso said this had not been discussed, but Jordan later said he had heard that Greenbelt Honda has offered to take customers to the park while their cars are being worked on so it might be worth checking to see if they would be interested in collaborating with NPS on a shuttle.

Management Issues

Commisso reported that an environmental assessment has been completed on managing deer populations in National Capital Park-East, which when implemented should assist in managing vegetation. He said that a regional invasive plant management team occasionally comes to the park to perform surveys and some control. The team could train volunteers to assist and there is talk of starting a weed warrior program.

Beaglefest Is Coming

AROO! AROO! All dogs in Greenbelt! Beaglefest is coming to Greenbelt! Bring beagles and beagle-wannabes to Greenbelt Dog Park, 7300 Hanover Drive on Saturday, April 22 from noon to 4 p.m. Rain date is Saturday, April 29. Dogs will get quality unleashed time with other beagles. It will be a beagle prom and class reunion in one. World-famous Beagle-themed merchandise of all types will be on sale. All dogs are welcome.

This event is co-hosted by Beagle Rescue and Welfare, Inc. (BREW) and the City of Greenbelt's Animal Control Department. BREW is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to rescuing and re-homing beagles. The group's main focus is beagles in shelters that are faced with imminent euthanasia. BREW works with shelters and animal control facilities throughout the Mid-Atlantic area and, occasionally, those outside the area. They work with adopters to find homes for beagles in the Mid-Atlantic as well as farther south and west.

There is a fee to enter. Contact 301-699-0440 (no texts) or gloria@brewbeagles.org with questions.

Jordan and Davis urged NPS to connect with Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll and Luisa Robles who lead volunteers here in invasive plant removal.

B-W Parkway

Work will soon begin on new signage and guard rails along the Parkway. One hundred eighty-seven signs will be erected, 154 of which will replace existing signs. Mile markers also will be added. NPS issued a permit for the Goddard bridge replacement but is otherwise not involved. For paving and lane marking projects, the Federal Highway Administration manages the projects once NPS receives funding. On exit and entrance ramps, however, it's not always clear if NPS or the State Highway Administration bears responsibility for pavement maintenance.

Resident Larry Hilliard recommended that NPS and the city collaborate with Kelly Busquets, who heads Goddard Space Flight Center's infrastructure plan, on electric vehicles (EV) and suggested that the Goddard bridge site would be an ideal location for an EV charging plaza. Commisso said that NPS has been replacing their fleet vehicles with EVs and has a charging station at the U.S. Park Police office in Greenbelt Park, though not for public use. Davis urged the park to add at least one publicly available charging station near the ranger station or campground.

Regarding the proposed maglev train project, Commisso acknowledged that NPS is concerned about possible effects on the Parkway, though he hasn't heard any recent discussions about it. NPS comments on the environmental assessment should be publicly available.

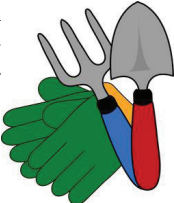
The session ended with council and Commisso agreeing to resume the regular interactions the city has had with NPS over the years.

Three Sisters Gardens Need Volunteers

The Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) seeks volunteers to help develop and maintain the Three Sisters Gardens at Schrom Hills Park Garden, Center Garden (behind the Community Center), and Springhill Lake Garden (near the Springhill Lake Recreation Center).

Three Sisters provide gardening opportunities for urban dwellers and promote edible and native plant landscapes and community and learning opportunities. The gardens strive to be an inclusive setting, are handicapped accessible and promote sustainable and organic gardening practices. Orientation and training will be provided.

For more information or to volunteer, call the garden coordinator associated with the location of interest: Joe (Center Garden), 202-445-5964; Carolyn (Springhill Lake Garden), 240-707-5252; or Effie (Schrom Hills Park Garden), 443-415-1053.



Eagle Scout Project Removes Invasive Species in Woodland

by Christian Horchler



PHOTO BY SUSAN CAHILL

From left, volunteers Gavin Olsen, Owen Kelley, Noah Eubanks and Christian Horchler remove invasives from GHI woodlands.

GHI's Parcel M is a lesser-known patch of woodland where many residents of Lakeside Drive and the westernmost points of Ridge and Crescent Roads have homes that back onto this woodland. Looking out a window, the woods provide a beautiful backdrop, but upon closer inspection, they are riddled with invasive plants such as English ivy, burning bush, wisteria and bamboo.

Scouting projects often teach valuable leadership skills which guide efforts to improve a community. Having noticed the overgrowth of invasive species in Parcel M, I decided to make cleaning it up the goal of my Eagle Scout Project. Clearing invasive species was a good opportunity to benefit the local community by instructing youth and volunteers on what invasive species are and how to remove them.

I was fortunate to be able to collaborate with the Woodlands Committee and especially Committee Chair Ben Fischler. During the committee's monthly meetings, the members offered expert advice on many of my ideas. They helped me to draft my Eagle Scout Project, titled Lakeside Invasive Species Removal Corridor Project.

On March 11 and 12, 29 volunteers showed up to work on the project, accruing a total of 106 service hours. Volunteers were asked to bring gardening tools such as gloves, shears and rakes. The project consisted of ripping out large patches of wisteria, tearing out burning bush roots and cutting English ivy at the base of trees. To avoid causing damage to native species, those plants were flagged with tape and volunteers were given information on the basics of each plant's purpose.

The project was a success. After many invasive plants were removed, native spice bushes were planted, generously supplied by a Woodlands Committee member. Downed branches were used to create brush piles as shelters for animals. Unfortunately, not all the damage caused by these invasive species can be undone within a weekend. Hopefully, this project will inspire others to continue the work of clearing out invasive plants in Parcel M. Thanks to all who helped out.

Scouts BSA Troop 214B is a Boy Scouts of America troop working on Scout skills, advancement, merit badges and of course fun with scouts 11 to 18 years old. The troop's 75th anniversary is coming up this summer. The troop meets at the Prince George's County Elks Lodge at 6700 Kenilworth Avenue in Riverdale.



PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

Tulips in bloom

MCAPS continued from page 1

learners was key, with the ability to use manipulatives and have an educator in front of them. “Students do not learn mathematics through a screen ... manipulatives help conceptual learning,” agreed a member of the administrative team. “Right now what I look to see is ... students in groups talking to each other” rather than on laptops, she added, emphasizing engaging classroom environments.

Seeking Best Practices

Shayla Adams-Stafford, representative for District 4, opened the discussion, continuing the adversarial tone among board members by chiding others whom she claimed slept at the presentation. She wanted to know what could be learned from the best-performing cohorts, such as the 10th grade English Language Arts (ELA) students that were outperforming others. Could best practices be applied to areas we’re struggling in, she wondered. The team believed project-based learning, offering student choice, allowing student voice in the classroom and lots of writing were the successful practices taking place in the county’s ELA classrooms. Intervention is also taking place in classrooms when students need support, they reported. The push of reading novels and online platforms for accessing textbooks were also recommended practices.

Whole Student

“What I get from this report is that it’s a call for action and not just for our school district,” said Fields. “We have to make our community understand because when students exist outside of the school building, what is happening? We have to make sure that our parents are engaged, to make sure that we address what we are seeing in certain of these areas [i.e., mathematics].”

Continuing the discussion of child well-being, Vice Chair and District 9 representative Lolita Walker noted mental health is a key focus of the strategic plan. She asked how to confirm each school has a psychologist and a school counselor available. She also suggested a focus on what is happening between grades three and eight where there’s a particular decline in math proficiency.

District 2 Board Member Jonathan Briggs, who represents Greenbelt, acknowledged that the data could be disheartening,” saying, “A big part of this is about what happens when students go home,” pointing to the large number of PGCPs families qualifying for free and reduced-price lunches. Briggs wanted to know what strategies were suggested for supporting students once they leave the school building. He also wanted to address the flight of wealthier students, saying it is important to retain students with resources who would in turn impact the students without as they embarked on project-based learning together.

“We’re trying to build a whole child,” suggested one administrator, saying we need to find other outlets for them, such as the arts, as well as providing mental health support.

Focus on Instruction

Appointed Board Member Curtis Valentine wanted to focus on teachers and instruction. “My understanding is that the greatest impact on development is going to be teacher instruction. The quality of the educator,” he asserted. “I’m sure this Covid pandemic hit us harder than everyone else. But I just tell you, people don’t care anymore. I mean, those things hit everybody, us disproportionately and I get that but, in the end, when it’s time to pay the piper, show me what you got.”

Briggs suggested recruiting from historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and focusing on anti-racist professional development for teachers. “It’s important who we have in front of our students and how they see our students,” he said.

Students with Disabilities

Madeline LaSalle Frazier, District 8 (appointed), asked how the school district is supporting students with disabilities, a group trailing in both language arts and math. “How are we uniquely addressing their needs?” she asked. The administration team responded that they are “bridging through accommodations,” investing a lot in special education teachers and manipulates and bringing in outside resources to support the teachers.

English Language Learners

LaSalle Frasier also asked how long the ESOL students remain in special classes before going into mainstream ones, concerned about the number still in ESOL in high school.

The administrative team responded that 14 percent of the English Language Learners (ELL) population were newcomers to PGCPs within the last two years. The fact that 42 percent of ELL students are receiving ESOL classes while in high school doesn’t necessarily tell us how long they are staying in the program, but the team offered to look into that data. The administrative team said the program includes only about 5 percent of the student population overall.

Engaging Parents

Vice Chair Lolita Walker suggested the county could use their creative teachers to energize others and suggested the possibility of a road show. She also asked how they could re-engage parents. Walker said she would like to see an intentional campaign to “re-engage parents” and Parent

HOW DID MY HIGH SCHOOLS DO OVERALL?

Overall High school grade span performance is provided by indicator and includes possible points and earned points. Annual target status is also provided.

INDICATOR	POSSIBLE POINTS	EARNED POINTS*	ANNUAL TARGET	IMPROVEMENT
Academic Achievement	30.0	13.0	✖	✖
Graduation Rate	15.0	11.8	✖	✖
Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency	10.0	3.1	✖	✖
Readiness for Post-Secondary Success	10.0	5.0	n/a	✔
School Quality and Student Success	35.0	14.9	n/a	✔

* Earned points may not equal total points due to rounding. ✔ =Met ✖ =Not Met

- Charts courtesy Maryland State Department of Education

HOW DID MY MIDDLE SCHOOLS DO OVERALL?

Overall Middle school grade span performance is provided by indicator and includes possible points and earned points. Annual target status is also provided.

INDICATOR	POSSIBLE POINTS	EARNED POINTS*	ANNUAL TARGET	IMPROVEMENT
Academic Achievement	20.0	7.0	✖	✖
Academic Progress	31.5	16.5	n/a	✖
Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency	10.0	1.7	✖	✖
School Quality and Student Success	35.0	23.6	n/a	✖

* Earned points may not equal total points due to rounding. ✔ =Met ✖ =Not Met

Teacher Organizations, suggesting that some parents could go into schools to assist and help where there are gaps in the classrooms.

Student Board Member Alvaro Ceron-Ruiz requested that the administrative team distribute strategies to engage parents of ELL students. These students do not have the same support at home, shared Ceron-Ruiz, asserting that many first generation Latinx students have parents who are constantly working. He wanted to know how the district could engage with them, saying, “Even though they’re working all day trying to meet them where they are.”

There was neither time nor specific data for the administrative team to respond to all of the questions from board members. A document answering those questions will be compiled and shared with the board and online along with the meeting materials.

The News Review reported the MCAP results for individual Greenbelt schools in the March 16 issue.



Hellebores

PHOTO BY CAMILA LUCHSINGER



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Board of Education Bickers; Parents, Public Say, “Stop!”

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On March 23, the Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) Board of Education held its March board meeting, largely focused on discussion of the data from the recent Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) data. However, this second meeting under a new chair, Judy Mickens-Murray, was marred, and at times derailed, by the fighting and acrimony among board members that had similarly plagued the board under the previous chair.

Divided Over Minutes

The antagonism began early with a disagreement about previous minutes. Former chair, Dr. Zipporah Miller, objected to the September minutes, focusing on a motion from board member Curtis Valentine because his motion had been out of order, in violation of the Open Meetings Act and because it wasn’t on the agenda, Miller claimed. Miller wished to exclude Valentine’s motion from the minutes. Mickens-Murray said that the minutes should reflect what took place in the meeting and be a record of “what happened that night,” whether it was right or not. The parliamentarian offered little guidance when asked to weigh in, saying only, “The board decides what goes in the minutes.”

Mickens-Murray said the issues that were out of order were subsequently dealt with at a later meeting, after lawyers had them go back and redo actions. Miller disagreed, saying, “It did not deal with the rescinding; no, it did not!” Board member Pamela Boozer-Strother suggested the video recording of the meetings could be consulted and, if it was necessary, the approval of minutes could be tabled to allow those videos to be reviewed, yet Mickens-Murray and Miller seemed at odds over what should be recorded.

September Minutes

Almost 20 minutes into the meeting the board voted on approving the minutes from September, a motion that failed with a divided board giving six ayes, five nays, one abstention and with two board members absent.

February Minutes

Discussion of approving the February minutes began similarly, with objections from Miller, who said the chair misread an email at that meeting, which could have biased members against voting for her legal fees. The chair “misinformed” the board about that email, she claimed. The dispute over these minutes, though it was curtailed, seemed to similarly center on recording what was said and done versus what should have been said or done, be they misleading or incorrect

statements or motions ruled out of order or later redone at another meeting. At the 30-minute mark for the evening’s meeting the board moved consideration of the February minutes to the end of the agenda in order to get to guests and current topics. At the end of the meeting, over three hours later, however, the board postponed the vote to the April meeting.

More Conflict

The next disagreement surfaced after the celebratory shout-outs, when Mickens-Murray attempted to move to the report of the chair and was interrupted by Vice Chair Lolita Walker, addressing a person and issue the audience had been unaware of. Mickens-Murray sighed as she was cut off and strummed her fingers as Walker spoke. “I just want to apologize to our unsung partner who is not being recognized. I personally had reached out to you and told you that you would be recognized today based on the process that I did follow for our board, so I sincerely apologize to you and every single person who came to support you tonight as an unsung partner. I am sincerely sorry, on behalf of myself, because I see you and I recognize you and I sincerely apologize.” Walker’s speech was met with applause by some and confusion by others.

After an emergency motion to allow the unsung partner to be recognized was proposed, Mickens-Murray said, “One piece of the process, though, was that it was not submitted to the chair for approval. I just wanted that for the record.” “That is not true,” retorted Walker into her microphone. The motion to recognize the unsung partner passed with nine ayes (including District 2 board member Jonathan Briggs), two nays (Adams-Stafford and Mickens-Murray) and one abstention.

Wingfield Recognized

Walker then turned to Miller who recognized Tonya Wingfield. She was described as a “mother, grandmother, community advocate and proud 1979 graduate of Suitland High School [...] an education advocate for almost 30 years.” Wingfield is a former PTA president, county council PTA member and lifetime PTA member, shared Miller, who detailed some of Wingfield’s work alongside parents, advocating for accommodations and serving on board of education committees.

Stop Fighting!

Wingfield used her opportunity to say a few words to tell the board: “It has got to stop.”

“What I have learned [is] you can have differences and still be respectful and still learn

how to get along and not be petty, because there’s too much of this going around and I feel bad because we’re losing a dynamic CEO,” she said gesturing to Dr. Monica Goldson, who is retiring at the end of the school year, “and as [Dr. Goldson] said, the vision of this board doesn’t match the administration and what we saw tonight is an example,” Wingfield said. “It has got to stop. It really has to stop.”

During the public comment section, several speakers asked the board to stop their fighting. Phyllis Wright, PTO president at William W. Hall Academy, opened her comments on school safety by saying she was ashamed of what her two PGCPS students who were watching had to witness from the board earlier. “We need to respect one another. There’s no respect here, Dr. Goldson, and congratulations on your retirement, you deserve it because dealing with this is just a hot mess,” said Wright.

Lack of Integrity

Donna Young, a former PGCPS employee was at the meeting to allege that whistleblowers were not being allowed due process and that documentation is being falsified.

“Despite changes in leadership, board members and the dynamic – whether it’s elected or appointed or hybrid – it seems to be the same issues: it lacks integrity, ethics and a moral foundation,” Young complained.



Easter Bunny skeleton on Maplewood Court

PHOTO BY EMMELINE BEDFORD-DILLOW



PHOTO BY GREG FISANICH

A rabbit tests the spring grass.



PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

Hepatica



AGENDA

Special Open Meeting of the GHI Board of Directors on Thursday April 13, 2023

GHI Open Meeting - starts at 7:00 p.m. - open to visitors and members


- a) Presentation of the 2022 Audit Report Prepared by An External Auditor.
- b) Review Minutes of a Special Membership Meeting Held on December 8, 2022.
- c) Review the Investment Committee Report as of December 31, 2022.
- d) Proposed Agenda for the May 11, 2023 Annual Membership Meeting.


Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMod-mgqz0uGdIJBJeSS0LOvTfPtRwt5wtn>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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CHARTER continued from page 1

for so radical a change. She also felt strongly that the latitude to insist on or ignore the residency requirement at will would enable council to discriminate – changing the rules person by person to let one live elsewhere and another not – and on what basis. Gaines felt that the requirement needed to be changed so that the manager didn’t have to live here or left as is and argued strongly for the latter.

Meetre (speaking as an individual and not in her capacity with the News Review) asked council why the recruitment advertisement had not contained any reference to the hard requirement of residence in the city. Meetre questioned whether the charter change was merely precipitated by the omission of this requirement from the ad. She wondered if council had received and reviewed an advance copy of the advertisement. “Does council believe the best way to fix an error is to change the rules?” she asked. Councilmembers did not respond to the questions, with Mayor Emmett Jordan emphasizing that he didn’t want to have a question-and-answer session but rather a public hearing, in which he didn’t wish for council to influence public comment.


Lester, in her email, felt a city manager should reside in the city to share the experiences of residents and should be paying the same taxes as the residents.

Impact

Meetre noted that the advertising campaign was national in scope and that many qualified applicants would have to relocate in any case. As a result, she argued that the residency requirement would not reduce the pool of applicants as much as had been suggested, affecting only people who already lived close by.

Lester, Rosado and Rice proposed the possibility of a slightly wider, but still local, range of possibilities for residence, with Rosado specifically suggesting residence in Prince George’s County was a must. Indeed, Rosado characterized the city manager not even living in the county as an “insult.”

“I don’t think the city manager has to be a resident here,” said Rice, suggesting there might be suitable candidates in the local areas like Berwyn Heights and College Park. “Let’s not limit ourselves in the city of Greenbelt,” she said, speaking of looking for candidates from a local pool. The search is, however, a national one; under the current charter the applicants need not live in Greenbelt, only be willing to reside in it during the tenure of their appointment.



Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

The meeting recessed for 15 minutes to allow the arrival of anybody else wishing to speak (the hearing was scheduled for two hours).

After the meeting resumed, resident Bill Orleans, who also spoke at the first public hearing, added his comments. He opposed the charter change, saying it’s less about where they’ll reside and more a question of the relationship between the city manager and council and the city manager and the residents of Greenbelt. Orleans also argued all meetings between the city manager and council should be open to the public. “This is all about council’s desire...to appoint a city manager to serve its interests,” said Orleans, who would like to know why Nicole Ard is no longer the city manager. “This year in his presentation to council the [interim] city manager proposed an increase in compensation for council, something that the city manager in his proposed budget should not be doing,” Orleans argued.

Jordan said it was possible that at the next council meeting the amendment could be introduced for a second reading and go forward to a vote but it would be dependent on time available in the agenda. Councilmember Judith Davis expressed thanks for accommodating her via Zoom due to a disability. Councilmembers Silke Pope and Colin Byrd were absent. Councilmember Rodney Roberts was present but objected repeatedly to the timing of the meeting on a day that council did not usually meet.

When no further speakers arrived, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:35 a.m.

The next regular council meeting is Tuesday, April 11.

Proposed Change

The following section in green shows the proposed change. The italicized lower-case clause in square brackets would be replaced by the italicized clause in bolded upper-case. Also proposed is fixing the gender references (to which no opposition was noted).

City manager-appointment; qualifications; term of office; removal; acting city manager,

TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL THE DISCRETION TO PERMIT A CITY MANAGER TO LIVE OUTSIDE THE CITY OF GREENBELT.

(a) Appointment; qualifications. The Council shall appoint an officer whose title shall be city manager and who shall be the chief executive officer and the head of the administrative branch of the city government. The city manager shall be chosen by the council solely on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications with special reference to his **OR HER** actual experience in, or his **OR HER** knowledge of, accepted practice in respect to the duties of his **OR HER** office as hereinafter outlined.

At the time of his **OR HER** appointment he **OR SHE** need not be a resident of the city or state, *[but during his OR HER tenure of office he OR SHE shall reside within the city]* **AND MAY RESIDE OUTSIDE THE CITY WHILE IN OFFICE ONLY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL.**



COUNCIL continued from page 1

for a pilot program of curbside collection of food scraps. Previously, there was discussion of issuing a request for proposals for this work but the city determined that it could grant the sole-source contract under Section 2.39(1) of the city code and Section 40 of the city charter.

The compost contract was subsequently adopted at the March 28 council meeting.

Forest Preserve

Council accepted three reports from the Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB). The first two were on the agenda for discussion at the March 27 regular meeting, which was postponed until March 28. The first is an application for funding for a research project to understand the hydrology and geology of Canyon Creek in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. The second reports on significant erosion of the Northway Trailhead in the Forest Preserve and recommends that Public Works reroute two short sections of the trail to avoid steep inclines, aligning the new trail to shed water and minimize erosion and needs for maintenance. The final report documents FPAB’s support for the research project previously mentioned.




Veterans to Visit Greenbelt, Washington, D.C., Memorials

by Butch Hicks

The Honor Flight Network was created in 2005 by Jeff Miller and Earl Morse with the simple mission of honoring veterans by bringing them to the nation’s capital to visit the memorials built to commemorate their service and sacrifice.

American Legion, community, state and national government leaders will host a salute Wednesday, April 12 to a 60-person contingent of veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam and their escorts participating in the Honor Flight Network trip. After the noon arrival at BWI airport, the veterans, on their way to Washington, D.C., will stop at Greenbelt American Legion for a luncheon.



This is the first flight initiated in Puerto Rico from a network official hub that will continue to serve and honor Puerto Rican heroes.

While initially focused on America’s World War II veterans, Honor Flight Network has expanded its mission to include those who served during the Korean War, the Vietnam War and veterans of any service era who are critically ill. The Network transports approximately 22,000 veterans annually and has flown nearly 275,000 veterans to Washington, D.C., since its inception.

For more information contact Butch Hicks at the Greenbelt American Legion, 301-807-7642.



View of Greenbelt Lake, with evergreen dryopteris ferns

PHOTO BY CAMILA LUCHSINGER



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred March 27 to April 2. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Armed Carjacking

On March 27 at 8:24 p.m. near 9300 Edmonston Road, a man was sitting in his green Hyundai Sonata (Md. plate 7FD5309) when he was approached by two men and an altercation occurred. As the man ran away from his car, one of the suspects shot at him. The victim was not injured. The suspects were described as a light-complected Black man wearing a face mask and armed with a handgun, and a dark-complected Black man wearing all black.

Robberies

On March 28 near 9200 Springhill Lane, a man reported he was robbed by two men armed with a black handgun on March 25. He said he walked into his apartment building and observed two Black men, aged 18 to 21, dressed in all black, standing outside. He greeted them and walked past both, and then the men pointed a gun at him and demanded his wallet. The victim complied, and the suspects ran. The first suspect is described as having curly hair and the second suspect is described as having slicked-back hair.

On March 29 at 4:09 p.m., the victim was walking home from school across the Spellman overpass when two teenagers came up from behind him and pinned him up against the bridge and stated “give me all your money.” The victim did not have any money, so the suspects took the victim’s airpods and ran away. The first teenager is described as a Black male wearing a black hood and multicolor sunglasses, approximately 5’8-5’10, and around 15-16 years old. The second teenager is described as a Black male wearing all black, approximately 5’8-5’10, and around 15-16 years old.

Shots Fired

On March 30 at 8:56 p.m. near Springhill Drive and Edmonston Road, officers searched the area and found five spent 40-caliber shell casings. No injuries were reported and no damage was found to cars or property in the area.

DUI Arrest

March 29 at 2:10 a.m. near Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Capital Beltway.

Fight

On March 30 at 5:00 p.m. near 99 Centerway, juveniles were fighting.

Fraud

Check fraud occurred on March 30 near 7300 Hanover

Parkway and near Ridge Road.

On March 27 near 6900 Hanover Parkway, identity and bank fraud occurred.

Missing Persons

On March 28 at 5:13 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, an elderly woman with dementia walked away from her residence.

Theft

On March 27 at 10:48 a.m. near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a camera left in the fitness room was no longer there when the owner went back for it.

On March 29 at 7:45 p.m. near 7600 Greenbrook Drive, a wallet left in a restaurant was not found when the owner returned for it.

Package theft occurred March 28 near 9100 Springhill Lane and March 30 near 7400 Greenway Center Drive.

Commercial theft occurred March 29 near 7500 Greenbelt Road, and March 31 near 6000 Greenbelt Road.

Vehicle Crimes Vehicles Stolen

Stolen vehicles included: March 27 near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a 2005 Ford E250 (Va. plate VNP7934); March 30 near 7900 Mandan Road, a 2016 gray Dodge Dart (Md. plate 2ES5733); April 1 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a black 2011 Hyundai (Md. plate 7EX4921); April 1 near 7900 Mandan Road, a black 2018 KIA Optima (Va. plate ULJ5341); April 2 near Kenilworth Avenue and Old Calvert Road, a black 2010 BMW 328i (Md. plate JB7870); April 2 near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a blue Geo 1997 PSD (D.C. plate GB7512).

Theft from Auto

Tools were stolen from two vehicles: on March 27 near 9100 Edmonston Road after a car window was smashed, and on March 28 near 6000 Cherrywood Court,

two tool bags were stolen from the back of a work truck.

Catalytic converters were stolen on March 27 near 6400 Ivy Lane from a 2012 Isuzu Truck and a 2014 Isuzu Truck, and on March 30 near 7900 Vanity Fair Drive from a 2006 Toyota Prius.

Disability placards were stolen March 29 near 9300 Edmonston Road, and on April 1 near 6000 Springhill Drive.

On March 29 near 7800 Walker Drive, all four tires were stolen from a 2022 Toyota Camry and a blue Toyota Camry. On April 1 near 9100 Springhill Lane, a Hyundai Kona had a window broken, steering wheel airbag stolen and damages to the ignition consistent with an attempt to steal the vehicle.

Vandalism to Autos

On March 31 near 9100 Edmonston Terrace, a Tesla was vandalized with spray paint.

On April 1 near 6200 Springhill Court, a Hyundai Santa Fe had a window broken.

On April 1 near 8100 Lakecrest Drive, a 2020 KIA Soul had a window broken and the ignition damaged.

Shooting with Injuries

On Wednesday, March 29, at approximately 8:22 p.m., Greenbelt Police officers responded to the intersection of Southway and Greenbelt Road for a shooting. When officers arrived, they found an adult man with non-life-threatening injuries consistent with a gunshot wound. He was transported to a local hospital. The suspect, an adult man, is in custody. Southway inbound to Roosevelt Center was briefly closed for the investigation.

Man Arrested for Murder Of Uncle on Greenbelt Road

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The Prince George’s County Police Department’s Homicide Unit charged a man they identified as being “of Greenbelt” in connection with a fatal shooting in Greenbelt on the afternoon of March 30. The suspect is 26-year-old Daquan White, who is charged with murdering his uncle, 44-year-old Steven Mouring of Suitland.

On March 30, at approximately 1:50 p.m., officers responded to the 8500 block of Greenbelt Road, in the area opposite Goddard Space Flight Center, for the report of a shooting. Once on scene, officers located Mouring in a vehicle, suffering from gunshot wounds. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Responding patrol officers located White attempting to run from the scene. He was taken into custody without incident. The potential murder weapon was recovered.

The preliminary investigation revealed White shot his uncle during an argument. He faces first- and second-degree murder and related charges and was taken into custody on a no-bond status.

White’s current address is listed as Southeast Washington, D.C., but former addresses in-



Suspect Daquan White

PHOTO BY PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY POLICE

clude Hyattsville, Landover and Greenbelt. A 2016 arrest documents his official address was the same block of Greenbelt Road that the murder took place, in the Gates of Cipriano apartment complex, which is in Lanham. White has previous arrests for assault, robbery, trespassing and driving without a license.

Investigation is ongoing and if anyone has information relevant to this investigation, they are asked to call detectives at 301-516-2512.

This article was written using press releases from Prince George’s County Police Department and public arrest records.

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.





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Smoothies



Southwest Bowl

Music, Message from Zimbabwe Featured at the New Deal Café

by Frank Gervasi

Social activist/filmmaker/musician Nyaradzo (Nyari) Mashayamombe came to Greenbelt to screen her latest film, *Even Our Dreams*, at the recent Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café. The film is a moving portrayal of difficulties and triumphs in a rural village in Zimbabwe, an English-speaking country in southern Africa.

Nyari sang to a full house at open mic night on Tuesday, March 21. She performed in her native language of Shona, one of 16 dialects spoken in Zimbabwe. The song, her composition, focused mainly on the love between neighbors and friends.

The traditional greeting in the rural African village of her birth translates as “I am well if you are well.” Concern for each other, despite the many challenges facing these mostly gentle and kind people, becomes apparent in her film.

Rural villages there are pretty basic, with many homes consisting of thatched roofs, mud-brick walls and dirt floors. Animals roam freely; goats and cattle are part of the society in this traditional culture. Elephants and lions are to be avoided and are a big concern there as well.

The location for the film, the village of Chiredzi, in the eastern part of Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), is near the border



Social activist, filmmaker and musician Nyaradzo (Nyari) Mashayamombe came to Greenbelt to screen her latest film, *Even Our Dreams*, at Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café on March 21.

with the nation of South Africa. Chiredzi has a large population of people with disabilities. Resident Sithablie went blind as a young woman and tells her story in the film. She supports herself weaving and selling useful fabric items. Her struggle and achievements are both remarkable and inspirational.

Nyari visited Greenbelt after working for 10 days in New York City at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

This annual gathering receives representatives from over 100 nations.

She is the founder and director of Tag a Life International (TaLi), a Zimbabwean and African girls’ and young women’s rights organization. The film was made in partnership with REHUBCD, an organization that works with children with disabilities in Chiredzi.

To learn more about Nyari and her work in Zimbabwe, email info.identitieszw@gmail.com.

Lions White Cane Days Will Come to Greenbelt in April

by Konrad Herling and Trenda Rusher

Help the Greenbelt Lions raise funds for adults and children who need to have their eyes screened to determine whether they need glasses, have visual challenges or are blind and in need of a white cane or a seeing-eye dog. Greenbelt Lions Spring White Cane Days will be at the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket two weekends this month: from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 14 through 16, and again the weekend of April 28 through 30. Stop by to find out more about their services or make a donation. These weekends mark the first time the Lions will be out greeting fellow Greenbelters since the Covid pandemic.



For more information about this event call Konrad Herling, Greenbelt Lions membership chair, at 301-345-9369. Other Lions activities and concerns include people needing assistance with diabetes, hunger, environmental concerns and pediatric cancer.

Greenbriar Community Elects Directors

Greenbriar Community Association had their annual meeting on Tuesday, March 28, and they elected the following individuals to their board of directors: Jeanette Gordy, president; Dorothy “Didi” Peck, vice president; Carol Adams, secretary; Therese Benedik, treasurer; and Jaime Gonzalez, director, Glen Oaks Apartment representative.

Spring Recreation Class Registration

Registration is open for all residents for Greenbelt Recreation’s 2023 spring classes. Programs are available for all ages, including visual arts, dance, sports, music and more. Inclusion services and financial assistance are available.

For information about the classes and the registration process, see the Activity Guide at greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide.



It’s time to speak up, reach out and break the stigma about mental health.

Luminis Health’s new behavioral health pavilion on the campus of Doctors Community Medical Center in Lanham provides support for ages 4 and up. No matter what you’re dealing with, we’re here to help.

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Luminis Health (formerly Anne Arundel Health System) is a nonprofit health system providing care for 1.5 million people in Anne Arundel County, Prince George’s County, the Eastern Shore, and beyond. Our system encompasses nearly 100 sites of care, including Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center, J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center and Pathways in Annapolis, as well as Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center and Doctors Community Rehabilitation and Patient Care Center in Lanham.

Common Dandelion: A Weed? More Likely a Wonder Plant

by Kathleen Gaskell, Bay Journal

This article originally appeared in the March 2023 issue of the Bay Journal and is re-printed with permission.

“Dandelions are just friendly little weeds who only want to be loved like flowers.” — Heather Babcock, Of Being Underground and Moving Backwards

It’s not known if there was a mayflower on board the Mayflower, the ship that in 1620 carried English Pilgrims to what is now the United States. But it is widely believed the Pilgrims brought along a plant known for its culinary and healing uses: the common dandelion.

In fact, both parts of this plant’s scientific name, *Taraxacum officinale*, have pharmaceutical roots. *Tar ashaquq* (from which we get *Taraxacum*) appears in the writing of Medieval Persian physician Abū Bakr al-Razī, a highly regarded figure in medical history. *Officinale* is a Latin term to describe organisms with medicinal, herbal and cooking uses.

Power Plant

A dandelion has more vitamin A than spinach and more vitamin C than tomatoes, as well as vitamins B and D. It also contains iron, calcium, potassium and zinc. All parts of the plant are edible. Is jelly your jam? Make your own! For a recipe, visit thejamesriver.org and search for “dandelion jelly.” (Note: Avoid consuming dandelions if you are taking a blood thinner, diuretic, medicine to control blood sugar levels or antibiotics, or if you have gallbladder problems. Also, medical conditions aside, avoid any plant where a fertilizer, herbicide or pesticide have been applied, or where it has been exposed to passing vehicles’ exhausts.)

To Dye for

Want a yellow dye? Use the dandelion’s flower. Want purple, magenta or tan? The internet provides recipes that combine parts of the dandelion with different dye fixatives to produce different colors.

Toothy translations: Dandelion comes from *dent de lion*, which is French for lion’s tooth and refers to the plant’s toothy leaves. The German and Greek words for dandelion also mean lion’s tooth.

A Dose of Dandelion

Everyone from the ancient Romans, Greeks and Chinese to Europeans and Native Americans have prescribed dandelions for a variety of ailments. As for modern medicine, most scientific studies have involved animals; there have been no qualitative studies for humans. This wildflower shows promise as a diuretic, appetite stimulant and anti-inflammatory. (Once again, it is suspected that dandelion chemistry does not mix well with certain pharmaceuticals and should not be taken without your doctor’s consent.)

Need an excuse to avoid the back-breaking job of pulling up dandelions from your lawn? This quiz contains a couple to choose from. Answers at the end.

1. Dandelion roots are widespread and strong enough to aerate hard-packed soil, allowing it to soak up water and reduce erosion and runoff. What is the



PHOTO COURTESY BAY JOURNAL

This dandelion plant shows both flower and open seed head stages.

typical length of its taproot?

- A. 6-18 inches, B. 8-20 inches, C. 10-22 inches.

2. The dandelion’s taproot not only extracts nutrients such as calcium and nitrogen from the soil, but it also makes them available to nearby plants. What was the length of one extraordinarily deep taproot?

- A. 6 feet, B. 11 feet, or C. 15 feet.

3. Why are dandelions beneficial for wildlife?

A. They are an important nectar source for more than 100 insects, including butterflies, moths and especially bees.

B. Their seeds are eaten by many bird species, including sparrows, goldfinches, ruffed grouse and bobwhite quails.

C. All of the above

4. Dandelions are ruderals, or pioneer plants. What does this mean?

- A. Their seeds “hitch rides”

on birds and other animals that brush up against them.

B. They are the first plants to grow in areas that have been disturbed by wildfire or construction.

C. They are a great plant for beginner gardeners.

5. The common dandelion is an introduced species from Europe. Are there native North American dandelions? Yes or no?

6. Although manufacturers of herbicides would have one believe that the common dandelion is public enemy number one, it is listed as invasive only in which of these two states?

A. Alaska

B. Idaho

C. Oregon

ANSWERS

1. A; 2. C; 3. C; 4. B; 5. Yes, but not in the Chesapeake Bay region.; 6. A & C

Kathleen Gaskell is the Bay Journal’s copy editor and author of Chesapeake Challenge.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

Pair of bufflehead ducks

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Greenbelters Contribute Generously to GARF Drive

by Erica Johns



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Kat Choma-Knapp, right, poses with some donated bras as she sorts them with other GARF members, from left, Lisa Knolhoff, Nancy Newton and Erica Johns.

Greenbelters, their friends and families continued to demonstrate their thoughtfulness and generosity during the second menstrual products and bras collection drive organized by the Greenbelt Alliance for Reproductive Freedom (GARF) in February 2023. They donated more than 10,000 menstrual products (including pads, tampons, reusable menstrual cups and reusable period panties), almost 500 new and gently used bras and 500 toiletries and miscellaneous items at six sites throughout the city. GARF also facilitated the donation of almost \$1,300.

The donated products and financial contributions support the activities of Shepherd’s Cove

Emergency Shelter for Women and Children in Capitol Heights (ucappgc.org/shepherd-s-cove-emergency-shelter) and I Support the Girls (ISTG, isupportthegirls.org), which provides supplies to social service agencies throughout Prince George’s County and Maryland.

When GARF members delivered two vanloads of donated products to ISTG, Office Manager Jasmine Gutierrez said, “This is amazing! This may be one of the biggest collections of products we’ve received from a community group.”

For more information about GARF, email greenbeltarf@gmail.com.

Greenbelt Garden Boosters

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Rain date: Sunday, April 23 from 1 to 5 p.m.
To check on rain: greenbeltonline.org/gardenparty

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SERVICES

SPRING HAS SPRUNG and Lawn and Order is ready to be rung! Spring clean-up specials include seeding, mulching, liming and lawn patching. Now is a great time to clean winter's debris and dead leaves from your lawn and prep it for the coming summer. So please call Dennis at 240-264-7638 and Lawn and Order will work with you on a plan to bring your lawn alive. Please remember to stay safe as the Caucus Clowns are on the loose and no outrageous lie or blatant hypocrisy is beyond their reach.

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BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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At the Library

Regular hours are Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the Greenbelt Library's schedule are posted at pgcmls.info/alerts.

Virtual Events

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGC-MLS) continues to offer virtual events for the public. The schedule of upcoming programs may be accessed at pgcmls.info/events.

Storytimes

Friday, April 7, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8031864 for stories, songs, fingerplays and more.

Monday, April 10, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8030311.

Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8030322.

Wednesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music, and activities for young children with and without special needs. Presented by PGCPs Infants and Toddlers for early intervention students and up to 12 community families. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8038684.

Teen Action Group

Wednesday, April 12, 4:30 p.m., ages 13 and up. Do you need to earn community service hours? Come make a difference in the community, gain friends from around the area and make your voice heard. Register at pgcmls.info/event/8039629.

VolunTEENS

Prince George's County teens in grades six to 12 can earn student service learning (SSL) hours through participation in the Library's VolunTEEN program. Teens may submit the information needed for each VolunTEEN prompt in Beanstack via the link at pgcmls.info/teens. All of the necessary information must be provided to earn SSL hours through the VolunTEEN program up to a maximum of 12 SSL hours.

Chromebooks

Online 2Go Chromebooks may be borrowed from the Library by those 18 and older with library cards in good standing, one device per customer. No LINK or student accounts are allowed.

The Chromebooks have a six-week loan period which may be renewed once for another six weeks if there are no hold requests from other customers. Further information is available at pgcmls.info/borrow-technology.

City Notes

Arts offered stained glass workshops and sold two paintings exhibited in the Gallery. Museum staff hosted an open house and visited the Tugwell Room at the Greenbelt Library to monitor the collection.

Street Maintenance/Special Details repaired service roads to Northway Fields and behind the pool. Horticulture/Parks delivered mulch to community gardens and infield dirt to two baseball fields. Refuse/Recycling collected 23.32 tons of refuse and 9.84 tons of recyclables. Sustainability/Environmental submitted the Mayors' Monarch Pledge and sourced trees for the Dora Kennedy School.

Recreation staff coordinated construction of a storage shed for the Tennis Association. Aquatic & Fitness Center classes are full, and Senior Swim is now offered three days a week.

The Community Center accommodated Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Arts Center, Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchanges Service (GIVES), Scouts, Farmers Market, Astronomy, Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program and 18 rental events.

Therapeutic Recreation trained staff for Senior Nutrition lunches and park rangers monitored tennis courts after complaints about dogs and skating.

Yarn and Darn Meets Wednesdays

Knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, rug hookers, seamsters et al. bring your portable fiber arts to the Community Center to chat and socialize while working on individual projects.

This is a free social meet-up. Participants must bring their own projects and materials. No registration required. Meetings are Wednesdays, 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 113.

Email alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov for more information.



GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW



The News Review went to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, with Betty Triplett and her family from South Bend, Ind. Betty is pictured here, left, with sisters Margaret Alkire and Mary Blann and brother Frank Perri.

PHOTO BY TRIPLETT FAMILY FRIEND



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Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center

High School Robotics Club Competes at National Level

by Karl Hille, Coach



Robotics Team 53 lets off some steam after competing for three days in the US Open championship in Council Bluffs, Iowa, on March 25.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School robotics team, also known as the Team 53 Alien Raiders, competed against more than 120 teams from around the country and the world in March at the U.S. Open Robotics Championship in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The team represented Greenbelt and Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), making new friends and sharing their enthusiasm, skills and competitive spirit with high schoolers from as far away as Turkey, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and Canada. Forming alliances with other teams is a core part of VeX Robotics Competitions (VRC), promoting networking and communications with new friends and potential allies.

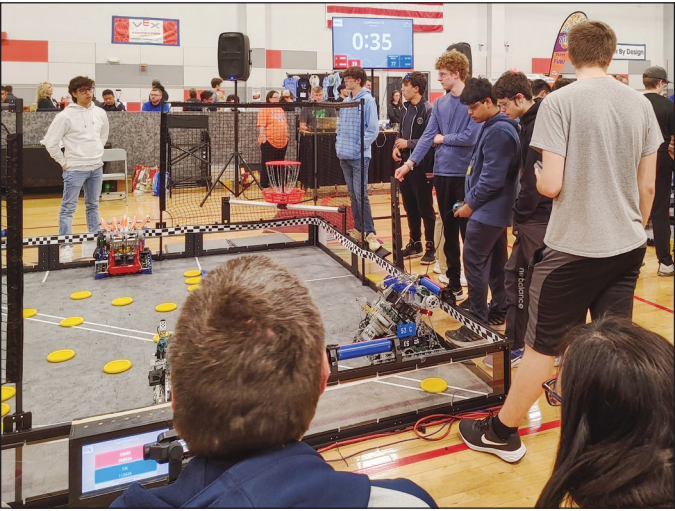
“I really liked being able to meet and learn from teams outside of Maryland, and I liked gaining more perspective on what the best VeX teams do,” said David Blaufus, who helped build his team’s robot this season.

Four of the ERHS robots qualified to compete at the U.S. Open – named 53A, 53B, 53C and 53E. ERHS Team 53A allied with Team 1069E from Berthoud, Colo., and made it into the quarterfinals in their division, while 53B and 53C also qualified for the elimination rounds, making alliances with teams from LaGrange, Ill., and Redmond, Wash.

“I was told numerous times how nice and helpful the Team 53 members were throughout the three-day event,” said ERHS faculty sponsor, Karen Bogoski. “Our kids jumped at helping other teams if they needed something. Even at the hotel when a team had damage to their robot due to the plane flight, senior Jonathan Hille raced to his room to get tools to help fix the issue.”

The ERHS team is divided into five squads of four to five students, and each squad designs, builds and programs an aluminum and steel robot to meet each season’s game challenge. They work within limits on the robots’ size, accepted parts and number of electric motors.

Each year they build new robots to complete a new set of challenges on a 12-by-12-foot field. This year’s Spin-Up Challenge resembled frisbee golf.



Waiting for the match to begin

- Photos by Karl Hille



From left, team captain Ashwin Selvarajasingham, next year’s team captain Veena Raj, programmer Ben Ruby and driver Michael Thoundayil prepare Team 53A’s robot for the next match.

Students designed robots to pick up and launch foam discs into elevated baskets, spin red and blue rollers to display their assigned color and perform a spectacularly messy “end game” in which their robots threw weighted strings across the field for last-second points.

The 2022-2023 season was very successful for Team 53, said team alum and Assistant Coach Kevin Yen of Greenbelt. “The Alien Raiders tied for the second-highest number of awards in a single season in club history,” said Yen, “as well as the second-most number of qualifying awards, and tied for the second-most tournament champions,” including at our home tournament at ERHS on December 17.

This season, the team from Greenbelt also reached out to new teams across Prince George’s County. Three teams toured the

ERHS robotics lab space, including the Greenbelt Bots First Lego League team (see the March 23, 2023 issue of the News Review).

This year, Parkdale High School is working to form a robotics team, and several of their students have frequented Team 53’s practices this year to prepare to compete in next year’s challenge, which will be announced in late April.

“I cannot tell you how proud I am of our squads,” said Coach Karl Hille, a father of two team members. “Their sportsmanship, scouting, alliance-building and interactions with other teams throughout the year leave a positive impression of Greenbelt’s team. Every time another coach, competitor, or parent flags me down to talk about one of our Raider team members, I’ve heard incredibly positive, encouraging feedback.”

AWARD continued from page 1



Mary Lou Williamson, left, accepts the award from Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks.

“The small paper couldn’t survive a successful lawsuit,” shared Alsobrooks, “But they decided to fight, because to them it was a clear case of freedom of the press – and the importance of telling important stories.”

As many News Review readers know, the paper lost the case in circuit court, again in its appeal to the Supreme Court of Maryland, but, as the News Review continued to fight, the case made it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. “Finally, the highest court in the land returned a unanimous decision siding with the small neighborhood newspaper in a case that protected the First Amendment right of a free press for reporters nationwide,” Alsobrooks told guests at the luncheon, who included Maryland’s First Lady Dawn Moore, Comptroller Brooke Lierman and other dignitaries.

“Today, the Greenbelt News Review still operates as the longest running cooperative weekly newspaper in the United States. It still celebrates births, mourns deaths, highlights interesting resi-

dents and reports the news,” said Alsobrooks. “Women still do much of the important work. With the exception of two, since 1977 all of the board presidents have been women. And the editor of the paper has been a woman, 94 percent of the time the paper has been in operation. That includes Mary Lou Williamson.... When I learned of her story, and the work she has done in the county, I was absolutely blown away. This woman has truly laid a strong foundation for other trailblazing women to follow.”

Calling Williamson a “super bad woman,” Alsobrooks welcomed our longtime editor to the stage, where she received standing applause as well as an Honorary Legacy Builder award from the county’s executive. “I know we are going to honor and recognize other outstanding women later in the program, but I wanted to take a moment now to recognize Ms. Williamson, because her story and work is so central to this year’s theme,” she said.



Witchhazel Wisley is early blooming.